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Department of State

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Action

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Rec'd: DECEMBER 19, 1953
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Info

FROM: BONN

TO: Secretary of State

RMR

NO: 1311, DECEMBER 19, 5 PM

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SENT DEPARTMENT 1311 REPEATED INFORMATION BERLIN 384 LONDON 280
PARIS 400 MOSCOW 155

ALSO SENT USAREUR HEIDELBERG 329

PARIS PASS USCINCEUR THURSTON AND WEST.

REFERENCE: EMBTEL 1307.

OCB

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AIR

NIC

IN TRIPARTITE DISCUSSION YESTERDAY, QUESTION AROSE OVER EXACT
MEANING PARAGRAPH 1, 2D OF BERLIN'S 422 TO DEPARTMENT, IE,
WHETHER PHRASE ABOUT EAST GERMANS "EXERCISING CONTROL OF SOVIET
ZONE CHECKPOINTS" MEANS AUTOBAHN TRAVEL BY PERSONNEL IN PRIVATELY
OWNED VEHICLES WOULD BE SUSPENDED SOON AS EAST GERMANS TAKE
OVER AT CHECKPOINTS OR ONLY WHEN IT CONFIRMED THEY INSISTING
SEE DOCUMENTATION, ETC.

IT WAS FELT THAT IN ANY EVENT, ALTHOUGH EAST GERMANS MAY
REPEAT MAY LET MILITARY TRAINS AND PERHAPS MILITARY CONVOYS
PASS WITHOUT PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENTS OR OTHER FORMALITIES,
IT QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THEY WILL PERMIT PRIVATELY OWNED
VEHICLES, EVEN THOSE WITH MILITARY LICENSE PLATES, PROCEED
WITHOUT SOME IDENTIFICATION OF PASSENGERS WHICH UNACCEPTABLE
UNDER NEW POLICY. WE COULD THEREFORE BE FACED WITH SITUATION WHERE
ACCESS BY MILITARY TRAINS AND POSSIBLY CONVOYS MAINTAINED BUT
SURFACE ACCESS OTHERWISE CUT OFF. IN LIGHT FOREIGN
MINISTERS' DECEMBER 14 COMMUNIQUE, PUBLIC OPINION, AT LEAST IN
GERMANY, WOULD PRESUMABLY EXPECT SOME COUNTERACTION BY THREE
POWERS IF THIS OCCURRED.

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-2- 1311, DECEMBER 19, 5 PM FROM BONN

WE DID NOT RPT NOT DISCUSS THIS LATTER POINT WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH, AND FURTHER TRIPARTITE DISCUSSION PARAGRAPH 1, 2 OF REVISED CONTINGENCY PLANS DEFERRED PENDING FURTHER CONSIDERATION. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS SOONEST.

IF IT DEVELOPED THAT PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLES BEARING MILITARY LICENSE PLATES WERE ALLOWED PASS WITHOUT PASSENGERS IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES, COULD USAREUR ARRANGE TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY MILITARY PLATES AT HELMSTEDT FOR EMBASSY AND CONSULATE PERSONNEL, ALSO PERSONNEL NEWLY ASSIGNED BERLIN AND PROCEEDING THERE BY CARS BEARING FOREIGN LICENSE PLATES? NUMBER SUCH PERSONNEL WOULD PROBABLY NOT AVERAGE MORE THAN SEVERAL PER MONTH. WOULD DEPARTMENT APPROVE USE TEMPORARY MILITARY LICENSE PLATES BY EMBASSY AND CONSULAR PERSONNEL? WE ASSUME NO OBJECTION THEIR USE BY PERSONNEL EN ROUTE BERLIN ON ASSIGNMENT.

TRIMBLE

PK

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